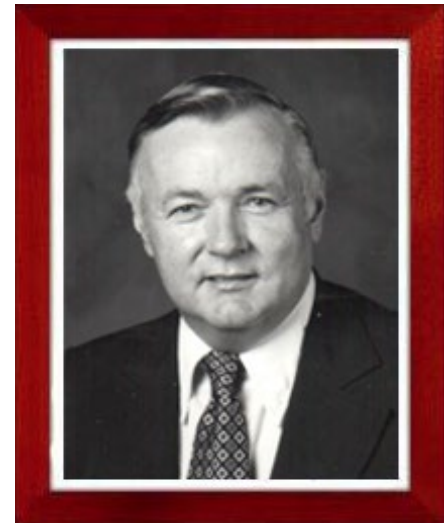


Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

J. WILLIAM UHRIG (1930-2018)

J. William (Bill) Uhrig, a native of Illinois, joined the Purdue University staff on August 1, 1967 as an Associate Professor. Prior to joining the Ag Economics staff, he served 5 years as an Extension Economist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Iowa State University. Bill spent a year as Director of Research for Farmers Grain Dealers Association at Des Moines, Iowa, a year as a Research Associate with Cook Industries Inc. at Memphis, Tennessee, and 6 months with Wharton Economic Forecasting Associates at Bala Cynward, Pennsylvania. His B.S. and Ph.D. degrees are from Iowa State University.



Prior to joining Purdue, Bill proudly served in the US Air Force as a pilot. His tour of active duty took him to Malden, Missouri, Denver Colorado, and into the North East Air Command, assigned to the 64th Air Division and stationed in St Johns, Newfoundland. Bill served in the Korean War and received an honorable discharge in 1957 as First Lieutenant.

Bill spent his career as a student, teacher, farmer, farm manager, farmland owner, and consultant. He earned his Bachelor of Science and Doctorate degrees from Iowa State University and also completed studies at the Southwestern School of Banking in Dallas, Texas. He was a faculty member at Purdue University for thirty years with his studies focused on agricultural economics. He had a three-way appointment in teaching, research, and extension and was often praised for his remarkable ability to reduce complex operations to a practical and understandable level. He was known for the groundbreaking ways in which he used technical analysis, expert systems, and neural networks in the study of agriculture.

Bill's major focus at Purdue was Grain Marketing and Price Analysis. He developed and taught AGEC 420, the undergraduate Grain Marketing course, for 20 years. While supervising graduate work for 15 students, he explored innovative areas in the use of technical analysis, expert systems, and the application of neural networks to agricultural problems. He worked with Will Candler, a fellow Purdue faculty member, to develop the Top Farmer Grain Crop Workshop Program and was a pioneer in using closed circuit television to rapidly disseminate critical information to farmers. He also organized Purdue's schools for Agricultural Banking, Farm Income Tax and Marketing on IHETS TV. Bill provided outlook program leadership and distributed outlook information by radio, TV, newspapers and magazine articles, and outlook letters and meetings. His work was recognized by the AAEA for the Distinguished Extension Program Award in 1982, the Premier Forecasting Award for Crop Production and Prices in 1989-90 and 1994-95, the Senior Recognition Award by the Purdue University Extension Specialist Association, and the USDA Superior Service Award as a member of the 1988 Drought Response Team. He worked with the Indiana Bankers Association and the Indiana division of the Internal Revenue Service

to develop the Purdue Banking School. Bill also worked with the US Department of Agriculture on a variety of topics, ranging from a study of the Russian sunflower crop and its impact on US soybean meal prices to how to best respond to droughts, the latter of which he received a Silver Metal Award for meritorious service.

Beyond Purdue, Bill sought out opportunities to extend his research to the business community. Bill took sabbatical leaves to work as a member of the Wharton Economic Research group in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, as Director of Research at the Farmers Grain Dealers Association of Iowa in Des Moines, Iowa, and with Cook Industries as a member of their research team in Memphis, Tennessee.

Bill was well known and loved to generations of Purdue students studying agricultural economics. He advised no fewer than fifteen graduate students during his time at Purdue and was on graduate examination committees for many others. Even after he retired, Bill stayed in touch with many former students, encouraging them as they pursued their careers and built their families. Many Purdue alums will remember how Bill turned his front yard on Northwestern Ave. into a parking lot during home football games, nominally to provide easy access to the stadium but really so he could reconnect with generations of students and alumni.

Bill received many awards in recognition of his lifetime work. He especially cherished the Outstanding Extension Teaching Award presented by the American Agricultural Association in 1982 and the Sagamore of the Wabash award presented by Governor Evan Bayh in 1996 for his outstanding service to the people of Indiana. Bill's passion was touching the lives of the people he came into contact with in a positive way. He was known to say, "you can't repay people who helped you along the path life takes you, so you pay your gratitude forward by helping other people." Bill lived those words every day of his 88 years and his family, friends, students, colleagues, and countless others are forever grateful.